

West Lafayette Fire Department July 2011

Station 3 Funding for the permanent Fire Station #3 has been secured and planning is well underway. At the July meeting of the Redevelopment Commission funding was unanimously approved as were the other essential plan components. The uncommon but well thought out plan calls for professional collaboration between the financial, design, construction, and other key partners. Payment will be from the KCB (Kalberer, Cumberland, Blackbird) TIF and the entire project is to be completely paid for in approximately seven years thereby leaving no long term debt.

The Purdue Research Foundation has donated land that is off of Kalberer Road and directly across from the temporary station. The new station will serve as a focal point for the Research Park while this phase of it is built out, and eventually the station will be surrounded by roads on at least three sides.

Design planning has now shifted into high gear with the goal of completing the station design and then breaking ground this fall or early next year. The station will be fully functional for the firefighters and equipment that are currently in the temporary station and the design will take into account future needs.

Once the permanent station is completed the temporary one will be vacated by the Fire Department and the building will be turned back over to the WL Parks Department. They will then have a much improved maintenance bay, larger office space, and a community room that can augment the hiking trails and many activities that take place in this area of the community.

MDA softball Several members of the Department have been practicing softball in preparation for a day long tourney on August 6 at the Lybault fields in Lafayette. This will be a fundraising event for muscular dystrophy and will have teams from local fire and police departments. It's been quite some time since WLFD had a softball team in a tourney, but at Station 2 is the first place trophy from the last tourney that the Department entered.

Fourth of July The July 4 Stars and Stripes fireworks and the many individual displays were relatively safe this year. Preplanned safety precautions are always taken when large public displays are shot off. The importance of this was proven when, during the Stars and Stripes display, two large shells exploded early and on the ground but because of the established precautions both of these misfires injured no one and caused very little damage.

For the most part individuals were cautious and safe in their use of fireworks. There were, however, at least three reports of reckless use in the south end of town. Fortunately no one was injured and although vehicles were involved, they were not damaged.

Chief Drew